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# DARKCHYLDE™

## THE LEGACY

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# DARKCHYLDE™

## THE LEGACY

## ACT 1: THE MAZE

RANDY QUEEN
THE MAN

JASON GORDER
EVERYTHING INKS

JIMMY YU
EVERYTHING COLOR

STEVE DUTRO
LETTERING

BRETT EVANS
WITH ED ROEDER
DESIGNS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO NICK "LIFE SAVER" BARRUCCI AND JOHN LAYMAN!


## STORY SO FAR

Ariel Chylde, 17, beautiful and lonely, had moved to the quiet town of Salem, GA, hoping to ease a turbulent past and embrace a happier future. A future far from her fractured life and ever-abusive father. And things looked good for a time, having managed to catch the eye of quarterback and "man on campus", Perry Stodghill. But Ariel has a dark secret, one she herself was not even aware of. She can become any creature from mans' nightmares. Manipulated by ancient evils, hell-bent on using Ariel's "talent" for their own wicked gains, Ariel soon found herself a fugitive wanted for murder, and almost burnt the town of Salem down to the ground in a climactic battle with those seeking to oppress her. Now, after the embers have cooled, Ariel is "believed" to have died in that fiery blaze and the "happier" future she'd longed for couldn't be farther out of reach.


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"RELISH THIS DAY, PEOPLE, FOR IT WAS PAID FOR WITH MUCH TOIL, STRIFE, PERSISTENCE, AND LET US NOT FORGET...

"...HARD WORK."

"AND I *MUST* SAY, I'M *GENUINELY* THRILLED TO SEE YOU ALL FINALLY MADE IT.

"WELL, *MOST* OF YOU, ANYWAY!

(NERVOUS LAUGHTER)

"AND THOUGH I HAVE TO CONFESS, IT PAINS ME TO SEE SOME OF YOU ON YOUR WAY...

"...OTHERS, I'LL ADMIT QUITE CANDIDLY, I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE *GO!*"

(LAUGHTER)

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"AND PEOPLE, PLEASE...

"...DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE LANDSCAPE YOU NOW SEE DRAPED BEFORE YOU.

"THIS IS NOT THE *END* OF YOUR *JOURNEY*. NOT BY A LONG SHOT. YOU DO *NOT* GET TO PASS GO, YOU DO *NOT* GET TO COLLECT TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS, AND THERE IS NO POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF *THIS* RAINBOW...

"...RATHER, YOU MUST TAKE IN ALL THAT HAS GONE BEFORE...

"...AND KNOW THAT IT HAS *STRENGTHENED* YOU, *REFINED* YOU...PREPARED YOU FOR THE MANY CHALLENGES AND ADVERSITIES THAT LIE AHEAD."

"... AND I PROMISE YOU, MY FRIENDS, THE ADVERSITIES *WILL* BE MANY.

"THE CHALLENGES...

"...WILL BE *MANY.*

"AND THE PENALTY FOR *FAILURE...*

"...FAR, *FAR* MORE *SEVERE.*"

"FOR SOME OF YOU, FORTUNE WILL *SMILE*.

PERRY?

"OTHERS OF YOU, FOR *WHATEVER* REASON, JUST SIMPLY *WON'T* BE AS FORTUNATE.

HEY, GUY...

"BUT *KNOW* THAT ALL OF YOU WILL *INDEED* FIND A PLACE IN THIS WORLD. A ROLE TO FULFILL...

"...A PART TO PLAY...

"...*BURGERS* TO FLIP."

(NERVOUS LAUGHTER)

...YOU OKAY?

HUH?!?
YEAH, YEAH I'M FINE...
I'M OKAY.
UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES.
SHE'S, UM...
SHE'S HAUNTING ME, MAN.
THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, GUY. IT'S NATURAL. BUT PERRY...
...THIS IS A BIG DAY. ONE YOU ALMOST MISSED YOUR-SELF. I MEAN, HELL, MAN, TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU... WE'RE GRADUATING TODAY!!! YOUR DAD... HE WOULD WANT YOU TO ENJOY THIS.
AND IF... ARIEL WERE HERE, WELL, SHE'D WANT YOU TO ENJOY IT, TOO.
THAT'S JUST IT, MAN. AS MUCH AS I TRY AS MUCH AS I WANT TO, I CAN'T HATE HER FOR WHAT HAPPENED. I CAN'T BLAME HER.
I JUST CAN'T.
AND, WEIRDLY ENOUGH, I MISS HER.
AND AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO DENY IT...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT WISH SHE WAS STILL AROUND.
HOME OF T
RAIDERS
CLASS OF '98

"BUT YOU DON'T NEED MY WORDS OF WISDOM, DRAWN FROM A VERY DEEP WELL OF EXPERIENCE, I MIGHT ADD, TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY. YOU DON'T *NEED* THE ANECDOTES OF AN OLD TIMER, OR ANY MORE MORALITY FABLES TO PREPARE YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL LIFE I KNOW THAT AWAITS YOU...

"...EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

"NO. YOU'VE BEEN PREPARING YOURSELVES FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS. SO... THAT BEING SAID, I THINK IT'S TIME I SHUT UP NOW, AND LET YOU ALL *DO* WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING SO RESTLESSLY IN THOSE UNCOMFORTABLE FOLDING CHAIRS TO DO.

"WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN ME NOW IN THE SYMBOLIC TURNING OF YOUR TASSELS...

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

"...WITH GREAT PRIDE AND PLEASURE I PRESENT TO YOU...

"...SALEM HIGH'S GRADUATING CLASS OF 1998!!!"

CLAP CLAP YEAH! "WOOOO!" CLAP

VATE
ERTY

THERE ARE TIMES, I'VE FOUND...

...WHEN YOU SIMPLY JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE WAY THINGS ARE.

IT'S NOT A "WANT TO"...

...IT'S A "HAVE TO".

HIGH

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '98 YOU DID IT!

SO IF I KNOW THIS...

...HOW COME I'M STILL HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE DOING IT?

I MEAN, YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF SCRATCHING YOUR HEAD AND GOING "WAIT A MINUTE! HOW THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?!?"

I'VE BEEN DOING THAT AN AWFUL LOT LATELY.

I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DIRECTOR AND ASK FOR A "RE-SHOOT".

TELL HIM THIS ISN'T HOW IT WAS SCRIPTED... TELL HIM THERE'S BEEN A HORRIBLE MISTAKE. SOMEBODY SNUCK IN AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR AND DID A REWRITE WITHOUT TELLING ANYBODY.

BUT THE CAMERAS KEEP ROLLING... AND THIS IS HOW IT AS.

AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU'VE BASICALLY MURDERED YOUR FATHER, BURNED DOWN HALF YOUR TOWN, AND ALIENATED YOUR ROMANTIC INTEREST BY POLISHING OFF HIS FATHER, TOO, WHAT REAL CHOICE DO YOU HAVE *BUT* TO LEAVE TOWN?

MAYBE I'LL FIND ALL NEW TOWNS TO TORCH. ALL NEW 'ALL-STAR QUARTERBACKS' TO BREAK MY HEART...

...ALL NEW FATHERS TO KILL.

AND HERE I WAS THINKING I WAS A GOOD AND DECENT PERSON.

I COULD SCREAM OUT TO THE HEAVENS, "WHY???" BUT REALLY, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO? BESIDES...

...I'VE TRIED THAT ALREADY.

AND GOD HASN'T, AS OF YET, BEEN TAKING ANY OF MY CALLS.

BUT I IMAGINE HE GETS QUITE A FEW. BUSY GUY, GOD. SWITCHBOARD MUST BE PERPETUALLY *JAMMED*.

SO I GUESS I'LL JUST STAY ON "HOLD" UNTIL MAYBE HE CAN FIND THE TIME TO GET TO ME. AFTER ALL, HE KNOWS WHERE I'LL BE...

...WANDERING ALONE, LOST IN THE MAZE BENEATH ONE OF HIS BEAUTIFUL SKIES.

NOW LEAVING SALEM

THE WOODS, JUST SOUTH OF SALEM... THE MOON HAVING ONLY JUST RECENTLY RESUMED ITS COMFORTABLE PERCH IN THE JUST-BORN NIGHT TIME SKY...

OOHHOOHHH... I'M MISERABLE, ALL RIGHT?

I'M... I'M GONNA FIX THAT LITTLE GIRL FOR GOOD, WHAT I'M GONNA DO... IT'S GONNA BE SOOO... SWEET...

FIRST, I'M GONNA... OHH!

DAMN STINKY FLYING MAGGOT! GET AWAY FROM ME!

I THINK I'M GONNA...

...CHOP OFF HER HEAD. THEN, I THINK I'LL... UH...

I THINK I'LL FRENCH KISS HER DEAD SKULL! YEAH, YEAHH... HEHE... THAT'S GOOD...

...I LIKE THAT ONE.

THEN, UH... I'M GONNA CHEW ON HER LITTLE PRETTY PAINTED TOES JUST LIKE BEEF JERKEY!

SHE'LL, UH... :BURP BE SORRY... OH YES... RUE THE DAY, SHE WILL...

I'LL SHOW HER A THING OR TWO... TEACH THAT LITTLE MINKIE A LESSON...

...MAKE HER HURT LIKE I'M HURTIN... SHE'LL PAY...

OH, YES...

...JUST AS SOON AS I GET OUT FROM UNDER THIS GODDAMN TREE!

WELL WELL WELL...

SNAP

WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE HERE BOYS! IT'S YOUR BEST FRIEND!

LYING DOWN ON THE JOB AGAIN!

YEAH...

...AND HERE I WAS WORRYING MY ENTIRE LIFE HE WOULD PASS ME BY AND I'D NEVER KNOW THE PLEASURE OF SEEING THAT STINKY ANNOYING LOUDMOUTH LITTLE BASTARD TRAPPED UNDER A TREE!! NOW I CAN BE HAPPY COLOR ME TARNISHED LIFE JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER.

YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVED, YOU COCKY LITTLE JERKOFF! YOU HEAR ME? NOT SO BIG AND MIGHTY NOW, ARE YOU?

NOW THAT YOU'RE DONE TROLLING BURGER KING YOU MIND JUST..

..HELP..ME?!

HELP YOU?! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!? YOU'RE HALF THE REASON WE'RE EVEN IN THIS MESS!!

LET ME KICK HIM IN THE FACE?

SIGH

MAKE IT QUICK

UGH!

I HOPE YOU ROT UNDER THERE YOU LITTLE CREEP!!

I HATE YOU!!

GRRRRR I...KILL...BOTH! ALRIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MURDER, STINKY BOY!

EXCEPT STAY UNDER THERE AND DIE, JUST LIKE YOU DESERVE TO!

OKAY, LET'S GO.

YOU SEE.. BETTER"

YER DAMN SKIPPY!

oh WOW!

Jeremy Spencer's

# CARNIVAL OF FOOLS

4 ...AND I'M STILL SO MUCH MORE THAN 30 MINUTES OF SUNSHINE AND HAPPINESS! I'M THE ONE YOU CAN'T SEE COMING AND I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU TO THE DARKEST PLACES IMAGINABLE!

4 I'VE GOT A 30 MINUTE SITUATION!

5 BECAUSE MY PICK CAN BE A TOY, OR SOMETHING CUTE, OR SOMETHING SWEET. BUT IT'S A DOLL AND IT'S FOR YOU. A DOLL OF YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE! AND I'M NOT HOLDING ONE OF THEM! I'M HOLDING ONE OF YOU! AND I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO MY PLACE!

FUN HOUSE

6 WHAT SHOULD THAT HAVE TOLD YOU?

6 WHAT SHOULD THAT HAVE TOLD YOU?

7 AND I SHOULD EVEN BE IN THIS GAME! I'M THE DUMB GIRL! I'M THE ONE WHO STOPS TO LOOK AT THE CREEPY HOUSE! I'M THE ONE WHO GOES TO THE DOOR! I'M THE ONE WHO GOES INSIDE! I'M THE ONE WHO GETS CHASED BY THE MONSTER!

7 AND I SHOULD

# UNCLE SCOOBY'S HOUSE OF TERROR

C'MON INSIDE, MY PRETTY YOUNG LADY. DO YOU DARE LOOK INSIDE UNCLE SCOOBY'S HOUSE OF TERROR? ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO HAVE YOUR DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRET BROUGHT TO LIGHT?!

NO THANK YOU! THAT ONE I ALREADY KNOW.

BUMP

WHOOPS!

OH, I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY, LITTLE GUY?

I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. BILLY JUST GETS A LITTLE TOO EXCITED SOMETIMES.

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WITH STRAWBERRY VANILLA ALL OVER YOU.

LOOKS LIKE HE GOT YA GOOD! WHAT DO YOU SAY, BILLY?

I'M SORRY.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT YOUR DRESS

OH NO BIGGIE, IT'S JUST A LITTLE ICE CREAM.

BILLY JUST WANTED TO SHARE.

WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE AND IT'S ALMOST BEDTIME ARE YOU SURE I CAN'T GET YOU ANYTHING, MISS

HEY LITTLE GUY! TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE DOWN! I'M NOT MAD! SO YOUR NAME'S BILLY?

YES. BILLY CAN AND I'M FIVE.

A-AMANDA. AYANDA LEIGH. AND NO IT'S OKAY REALLY NOTHING A LITTLE WATER WON'T REMEDY

WELL, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT AMANDA.

'BYE 'MANDA!

BYE BILLY CAN!

I WONDER IF I'LL EVER EVEN KNOW

BUT I HOPE

HOURS LATER.

THE CAIN RESIDENCE. ROUGHLY SEVENTEEN MINUTES AFTER THE LAST BEDTIME STORY HAS BEEN TOLD, YOUNG BILLY LIES DREAMING IN HIS BED, EXPLORING BRAVE NEW WORLDS THAT LIVE ONLY BEHIND HIS EYELIDS..

HE WOULD'VE BEEN SAFER, HAD HE STAYED THERE.

BILLY...

LITTLE BILLY...

BE VERY QUIET, BILLY. WE WOULDN'T WANT TO WAKE UP MOMMY AND DADDY. THEY'D BE VERY ANGRY. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...

OPEN UP THE WINDOW, BILLY. I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU...

...ONE YOU'RE SURE TO ENJOY!

BILLY

THE MIRBROUNDS, LONG AFTER THE MIDWAY HAS GROWN SILENT,

WIFE

DRIP!

WHA--?!

OH MY GOD!

BLD!

ARIEL

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE
I KNOW WHAT YOU AFE
I KNOW YOU
I CAME TO DIE
AND IF YOU CAN CATCH ME, WE'LL

HELLO OOO~ KEEEM

I GUESS
THIS
THAT DOES
SOMETHING
INTERESTING!

TO BE CONTINUED

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THE LEGACY
-QUEEN-
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# DARKCHYLDE

## THE LEGACY

Image

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ARTHUR ADAMS '98

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# ARKCHYLDE

## THE LEGACY

### ACT 2: "YESTERDAY, THINGS WERE ALMOST FINE."

RANDY QUEEN: [illegible]

JASON GORTER: [illegible]

JIMMY YU: [illegible]

STEVE BUTROVE: LETTERER

BRETT BLANK WITH ED ROEDER: [illegible]

TINA JESCHARSON: [illegible]

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
[illegible]

VERY SPECIAL
THANKS TO:

ED BENES: ADDITIONAL PENCILS
RICHARD FRIEND: ADDITIONAL [illegible]
BEN SINCLAIR: ADDITIONAL COLORS
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## STORY SO FAR

Believed to be dead, Ariel Clyde packed up what was left of her life, and, after watching her class graduate from a safe distance, went about the painful and lonely process of moving forward and closing the book on that particular chapter of her life. On her way out of Salem, Ariel happened upon an old travelling carnival, and quickly surrendered herself to it's gaudy charm and flashing lights. Ariel sought shelter inside the carousel tent after the midway had shut down, but awoke quickly and to her horror discovered that young Billy, a carnival patron she'd met earlier in the night, had been brutally murdered. It looks now as if one of Ariel's old foes had followed her seeking revenge...


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JEREMY SPENCER'S CARNIVAL OF FOOLS, 5:01 A.M., JUST 20 SHORT MINUTES EAST OF SALEM, GEORGIA
A FREE RIDE
TO HOLDER OF BRASS RING

I'M AM DAMON AND IS ALIVE WITH DAYLIGHT
THE VOICE, DEEP RAVENOUS TOUCH OUT OF HIS MOUTH IS A MONSTROUS MONOTONE, AWA-KED BY ETHEREAL ACOUSTICS ONE NIGHT ENCOUNTERED IN HELL. A SOUND THAT MAKES YOU WAKE UP FROM YOUR NIGHTMARES SWEATY AND SCREAMING WITH A NEW FOUND FAITH IN GOD.
GEE, I SUPPOSE TO BE DEAD LITTLE SIS?
THAT'S FUNNY, PENANCE. I WAS JUST ABOU TO ASK YOU THE SAME TH NG
LAST TIME I CHECKED
I KILLED YOU!
AZRIEL

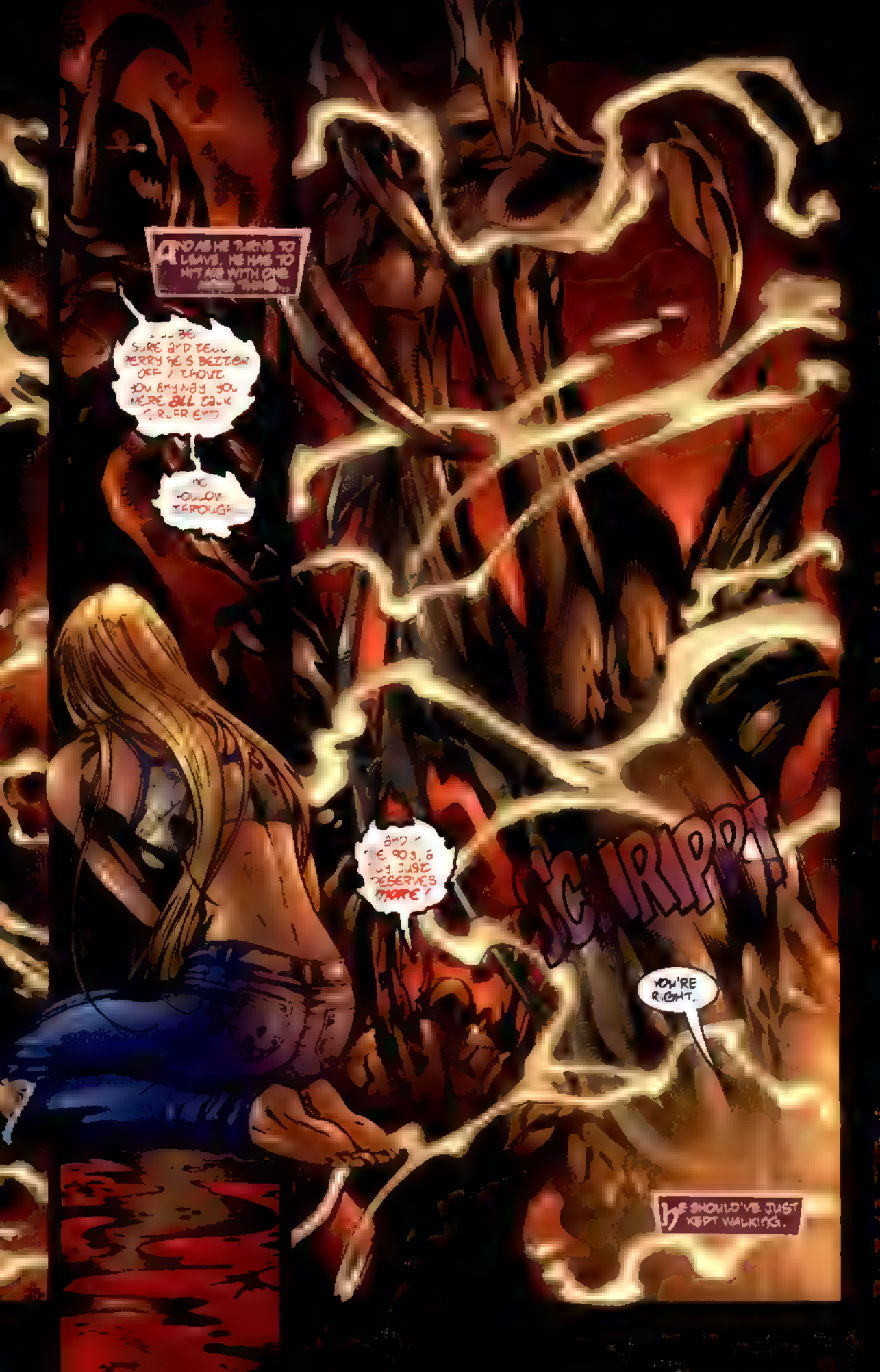
HEY BAITED AND THE BEAST IS COILED AND READY TO STRIKE... WHY DRAW OUT WHAT WE BOTH KNOW TO BE THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME? MAYBE YOUNG BILLY GAIN COULDN'T FIGHT BACK, BUT I SURE AS HELL CAN. MUCH AS I HATE IT
A DEADLY WAVE OF MORBIDITY SWELLS UP AROUND US, SWEEPING US TOWARDS INEVITABLE CONFLICT...
...HERE HE COMES.
WHAT? SAY I SAY SOMETHING?

NEXT TIME, DO A BETTER JOB!
KA-BRAKT!

MY WHOLE LEFT SIDE IS ON FIRE. EVERY NERVE ENDING IN MY BACK IS BURNING WITH CARNATHIC FOR SKIN.
MY ARM GOES NUMB AND DOESN'T MOVE RIGHT.
I'LL BE A BIG GIRL AND ADMIT THAT PART OF ME WOULD LOVE TO LAY DOWN AND JUST LET HIM FINISH IT...
...CLOSE MY EYES AND LET THIS END.
THEN THERE'S THAT OTHER PART OF ME. THE STUBBORN PART THAT'S JUST FOUGHT TOO DAMN HARD AND LOST TOO DAMN MUCH TO EVER TRULY GIVE UP HOPE THAT THINGS MIGHT ONE DAY BE BETTER.
THE SIDE THAT WANTS ANSWERS. THE SIDE THAT NEEDS ANSWERS.
ANSWERS FOR ME...
...ANSWERS TO LITTLE BILLY CAIN.
GUESS WHICH SIDE WHO CUT?
THAT'S A GIRL. GET UP. AT LEAST MAKE IT INTERESTING FOR ME!
OH I'LL DO MORE THAN THAT. WE BOTH KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF, MONSTER.
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF YOUR FACE...
...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THAT QUICK TO FORGET!
YOU TAKE ME OUT TO THE KNEES BABY
AND FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS
KEEP IT UP, LITTLE GIRL
YOU'RE TALKING MY LANGUAGE!

SOMETHING...ME?!
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
MAYBE PULLING SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR NIGHTMARES? SOMETHING THAT'S BIG AND NASTY AND SMELLS OF EVIL...
OR MAYBE A GIANT DRAGON AND THEN YOU CAN BURN DOWN HALF THE TOWN AND MURDER A FEW MORE FATHERS!
YOU COULD EVEN TERRORIZE A FEW MOTHERS TOO WHILE THE HEROES OF FAIRNESS
SHUT UP!
I'VE NEVER MURDERED ANYONE! IT'S ALL BEEN YOU! YOU AND ALL OF YOUR KIND!
DENIAL, DUDLOCK'S
...SUCK IT UP!
WHACKKK!
THE BOYS KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE THE BALLS TO SUMMON AGAIN! METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING OF COURSE
YER GUNSHY, MATE
IT'S BEEN THROUGH MY FACADE...
THE BASTARD'S RIGHT. I'M TERRIFIED TO CHANGE AGAIN. TERRIFIED TO BIRTH ANOTHER ONE OF THEM FREE FROM THE FLAME

HE'S PUSHING ALL THE RIGHT EMOTIONAL BUTTONS.
IF I CHANGE, HE GETS A 'SHORTY' EIGHT. IF I DON'T, I DIE. EITHER WAY, HE COMES OUT ON TOP. GETS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS. AND SOMEHOW I JUST DON'T THINK I COULD TALK HIM INTO LEAVING UNTIL I'M BLOODY AND BROKEN. BLOODY AND BROKEN...
HAR! HAR!
I HESITATE, A RABBIT IN THE HEADLIGHTS, BATHED IN THE PARALYSING OF MY OWN BLOOMING FEAR AND INDECISION.
I GIVE HIM A SECOND...
...HE TAKES IT.
THERE IS A LOUD 'POP', MY SIDE IS GRAYED WITH A MIST OF HOT CRIMSON, AND THERE'S A BLAZING SUPERNOVA WHERE MY ARM USED TO BE.
MY HEART FLUTTERS FOR A SECOND AS WHITE BARBARITY EXPLODES BEHIND MY EYELIDS. SHOCK RACES THROUGH MY SYSTEM, CARRYING DARKLY WITH IT ME WITH THE LUXURIOUS OF A WILD LOVER.
MY SIDE GOES UNDER
THE BASTARD HAS TO PUNCTUATE HIS VICTORY BY HITTING ME WITH MY OWN RAVAGED LIMB.
HE IS EVIL MADE REAL, EVIL GIVEN LIFE AND LEGS AND I AM THE ONE TO BLAME. AND HE'S SO VERY RIGHT...
SMOK!
...I'M GONE... WINDER.


AND AS HE TURNS TO LEAVE, HE HAS TO HIT ARE WITH ONE
SURE 3RD TELL PERRY HE'S BETTER OFF I THOUT YOU ANYWAY YOU WERE ALL TALK EARLIER BTW
NO FOLLOW THROUGH
AND I'VE GOT A JUDGE DESERVES MORE!
RIPP!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE SHOULD'VE JUST KEPT WALKING.

YOU DESERVE MORE
FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST GOT WHAT THEY WANTED...
...YOU DON'T LOOK TERRIBLY HAPPY!
WHACK!
AN EASY KILL?!? WHAT, LIKE THAT LITTLE BOY YOU MASSACRED?!

HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, PRINCESS...
...AND WHILE I KNOW IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO GIVE THE CONCEPT ROOM TO BREATHE IN THAT MUDDLED BLONDE HEAP OF YOURS...
THIS TIME I'M NOT "GUILTY AS CHARGED!!"
LIAR!!

THE HEART OF THE FOREST MAKES EVIL HALF-KIND ...BUGS AND MAKES ITS WAY THROUGH THE DENSE, MOIST UNDERGROWTH...
SO TELL ME...
HOW BAD DOES IT SUCK THAT YOU'RE TRAPPED UNDER THIS HUGE TREE, LEFT, RAW AND EXPOSED TO WHATEVER LYCOMEL'S ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT PROBITE DETRIMENTAL TO ELEMENTS LIKE ME, FOR INSTANCE.
HOW BAD DOES IT SUCK? IT PROBABLY SUCKS ABOUT AS BAD AS HAVING TO HOLD ABOUND MYTH FOREHEAD FOR A FOREHEAD.
OKAY
SO, GOT ME THERE.
BUT, COMMENTED U.K. TAIL DON'T NECESSARILY CHEER THEMSELVES TO MY "GOOD BETTER CAN" SENSIBILITIES, MY FAVORITE, SMELLY FRIEND
LIKE YOU'D HELP ME ANYWAYS, YOU LITTLE JACKASS.
WELL... I AM BORED AND ME TO HAVE SOMEONE AS IN COMMON. WE BOTH MESSAGED TO ESCAPE THE "MIGHT OF DEATH" AND WE ARE BOTH TRAPPED HERE. WELL, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MORE TRAPPED THAN I AM.
IF YOU HELP ME
... SURE WITH YOU A GREAT AND TERRIBLE SECRET ALLRIGHT?!?

AND JUST WHAT SECRET WOULD THAT BE?
MEMBRANE MELON
OKAY
EAT ME
FINALLY
I'D SAY IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN FLATULENCE, BUT THAT WOULD BE LYING
AND I'M TRYING TO QUIT
WHATEVER
NOW LET'S HEAR THIS "GREAT AND TERRIBLE" SECRET!
OKAY SURE I MEAN I DEAL'S A DEAL ALRIGHT?

THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE
OF THE
THAT WILL MAKE YOU SHUT YOUR FAT MOUTH...
FOREVER!
NOW YOU WILL BOW BEFORE THE POWER AND THE STENCH THAT IS ME!!! I AM YOUR MASTER! I AM YOUR GOD! NOW YOU WILL ANSWER TO ME, LOWLY NIGHTMARELING! ALRIGHT?!!
GUESS WHAT, IDIOT?
YOU WILL ADDRESS ME WITH RESPECT AND REVERENCE OR NOT AT ALL FATBOY!
THAT THING WORKS BETTER WITH THE STONE INTACT. LAST TIME I CHECKED, ANYWAY. WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IS AN OVER-SIZED PAPER WEIGHT!
PEELING PRETTY STUPID RIGHT ABOUT NOW, AREN'T YA? I MEAN MORE SO THAN USUAL.
OH, WELL FINE OKAY. ALLRIGHT
YOU FEEL FREE TO GO TO HELL ANYWAY. ALLRIGHT?!
I WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE INTERESTING THERE, ACTUALLY BUT I'VE GOT A NOSE FOR TROUBLE, AND THAT THING MIGHT JUST PROVE USEFUL YET.

PERRY'S HOUSE, SALEM.
HOW YOU FEEL N MAN?
T S STRANGE, YOU KNOW? I MEAN
THERE'S CERTAINLY NOTHING LEFT TO KEEP ME HERE NOT ANY MORE.
T S KE THERE'S TH S BIG, FLASH NG NEON S GN TELL NG ME TO GET THE HELL OUT OF TH S TOWN.
YEAH, BUT THAT BIG, FLASHING NEON SIGN" IS POINTING YOU TO A FULL SCHOLARSH P AT UCLA, PERRY, AND THAT'S NOT A BAD PLACE TO BE OFF TO.
I'LL MISS YA, MAN, BUT FACE FACTS, PAL. THE WINDS OF CHANGE HAVE BLOWN, AND BLOWN HARD. IT'S TIME BROTHA
TIME YOU GOT THE HELL OUT. TIME TO MOVE ON
I HAVE A FEEL NG THERE'S AN ENTIRE WORLD OUT THERE JUST WAITING TO S NK ITS TEETH NTO ONE PERRY STOOGH ...

I'M GONNA MAKE ONE LAST, QUICK RUN THROUGH I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYTHING IS BUTTONED UP AND WE'RE "GOOD TO GO" HERE, PERR...
EXCUSE ME ARE YOU PERRY STODGHILL?
WHA?!
HER BEAUTY IS JARRING AT FIVE A.M. IN THE MORNING. HER BEAUTY WOULD BE JARRING AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY..
...BUT EVEN MAYBE MORE JARRING...
...IS ITS FAMILIARITY.
A LITTLE EARLY FOR A MORNING STROLL, ISN'T IT?
WELL, SWEETIE, THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED "MORNING STROLLS". YOU TAKING OFF SOMEWHERE?
YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT
BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, MAYBE IT'S BAD TIMING.
AH, THE OLD PERRY NEVER TOO BEATEN DOWN TO SHOW SOME SIGNS OF LIFE.

WELL.. GOOD LUCK TO YOU AND WHATEVER YOU HOPE TO FIND.
I, UH...
..DON'T BELIEVE I CAUGHT YOUR NAME?

IT'S JESSICA.
JESSICA CHYLDE.
OH, AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO RUN INTO ARIEL BEFORE I DO...
...GIVE HER MY BEST, WOULD YOU?
TO BE CONTINUED...

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HOW'S IT GOING, BOBBIE?
SO, BE HONEST WITH ME... DO I LOOKED EVEN A LITTLE BIT LIKE YOU LOOKED FOR BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY BECAME THE HEAVY BOOK IN THE LODGE?
OH, AND YOU CAN BE SURE I'VE GOT SO MUCH MORE TO GIVE TO YOU, PENNIANCE...
...SO VERY, MUCH MORE!
WRITTEN AND CREATED BY
RANDY QUEEN
WITH ADRIAN GUEST PENCILS
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THEY'RE IN GOOD COMPANY!
CHUCK?
JEREMY
I'M THINKING IT WOULD BE VERY BAD TO HAVE OUR TWO BEST CATS ROAMING AROUND THIS GODFORSAKEN BACKWATER TOWN, CAUSING TROUBLE.
WOULDN'T YOU ABSOLUTELY AGREE?
I'D ABSOLUTELY AGREE.
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU BE A SWEETHEART AND ABSOLUTELY TAKE CARE OF IT?
IT'S ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF
I HAVE NOTHING BUT FAITH

I WONDER WHAT THE STORY IS THIS TIME? SOUNDS LIKE THEY HAVE A HISTORY, THESE TWO. MAKING AN AWFUL MESS OF OUR LITTLE TRAVELLING HOME.
YES
YES THEY ARE BUT I THINK WE'RE IN AGREEMENT WHEN I ASSUME IT IS SAFE TO SAY WE'VE STUMBLED ACROSS FAR WORSE
YES
YES WE HAVE
I'M SURE THE "FAMILY" IS AWAKE BY NOW ANYWAY. LOVE SORROW, BUT MAKE THE ROUNDS REGARDLESS
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CUT OUR LITTLE VISIT HERE SHORT.
WE'RE PULLING OUT
YOU SURE, MR. SPENCER?
OH YEAH YOU KNOW HOW SKETCHED OUT I GET AROUND ANY AND ALL SUPERNATURALS OR BLACK MAGIC. JUST BECAUSE I FIND IT FASCINATING, DOESN'T MEAN I WANT IT IN MY FACE.
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW SOMEHOW IT KEEPS MANAGING TO FIND US
REGARDLESS OF HOW FAST OR HOW FAR WE RUN.

WELL, BUDDY, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE FOUND ARIEL.
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE HAS FOUND HER FIRST.
ARIEL HAS NO TROUBLE FINDING TROUBLE.
THAT'S PENNANCE, WAR. IN THIS CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE MAYBE TROUBLE FOUND HER... AND HE'S GOTTEN HER TO CHANGE AGAIN. THAT'S BAD.
THAT'S REALLY BAD.
I THOUGHT SHE FRIED THAT BIG JERK. I THOUGHT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
WAR SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
PIECE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
ARIEL SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
YEAH, YEAH, I HEAR YA. GOOD POINT. SHE KINDA LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GETTING HER ASS KICKED, DOESN'T SHE?
SHELL ME?
WAR THINKS IT'S A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
"CONCLUSION"? HUH? YOU'RE STARTING TO SCARE ME, BUDDY. THAT'S A THREE-SYLLABLE WORD, WAR. DON'T YOU GO GETTIN' ALL ARTICULATE ON ME...

...IT'S NOT YOUR STYLE.

SMAKT
NEED SOME HELP HERE?
I'LL TAKE IT WHERE I CAN GET IT.

CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR A MINUTE, CAN WE? YOU NEVER CALL, YOU NEVER WRITE
NEVER... A DULL MOMENT.
WHOOF!
KICK HIS ASS, WARREN. KICK HIS STUPID ASS!!!
GIVE HIM THE "GOOD STUFF" BABY!
GIVE HIM THE GOOD STUFF!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT!
WHO'S YOUR DADDY NOW BIG GUY?
POPPA'S COME HOME, DO YOU HEAR?!?
POPPA'S COME HOME!

BUT IF YOU WANT YOUR STUPID HEAD SMASHED SOME MORE BY ALL MEANS
NOT IF YOU'RE SMART YOU WON'T!
..KEEP IN TOUCH.
GUYS...!
I THINK I'M IN BIG TROUBLE HERE.

SO... DEAD?
NOT BY THE NORMAL DEFINITION, NO.
I FEEL DEPRAVED HERE?
UHHH GOD THAT DISGUSTS ME.
I MEAN WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS...
IT'S UH PROBABLY NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS.
REMARKABLE HOW HER ARM GET PIECE.
OH GEE, REALLY? IS THAT WHAT THAT IS? I'LL TAKE THE CONFUSION I HADN'T NEEDED
I SURE HOPE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS...THIS IS A NO-BRAINER.
PIECE, I'M SCARED.
I'M SCARED TO BECOME HUMAN AGAIN.
PIECE... ...WILL MY ARM STILL BE GONE?

JUST LISTEN TO ME, K.D.
DON'T GET CRAZY OKAY?! YOU CAN'T STAY IN THAT FORM
...YOU GOTTA SEND IT BACK
WHAT? SO I CAN BLEED TO DEATH?
ARIEL IS SIMON-NEGOTIABLE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BLEED TO DEATH, I PROMISE YOU.
I CAN'T, PIECE... ...I JUST CAN'T.
YOU CAN, DON'T IT, ARIEL...AND YOU WILL! JUST LISTEN TO ME
TRUST ME PLEASE
YOU REGENERATED YOUR SEVERED LIMB WHEN YOU BECAME THE NIGHTMARE CREATURE YOUR BODY WILL GO BACK TO THE WAY IT REMEMBERS IT PROMISE YOU.
I REMEMBER GETTING MY ARM RIPPED OFF, PIECE!
BUT YOU HAVE TWO OF THEM NOW, ARIEL THINGS WILL GO BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE YOUR NORMAL BODY WILL CORRECT ITSELF!! PLEASE ARIEL
PLEASE ARIEL
PLEASE JUST TRUST ME
GET OUT OF THERE

SEE, I TOLD YA, PIECE?
SHUT YOUR STUPID MOUTH, WAR! I DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM YOU OR TA'S!
I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE
YOU BETTER...
...I'M DEAD IF YOU DON'T.
SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YA?
WOULD I STEER YOU WRONG?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THANKGOD OH THANKGOD! PIECE, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
ACTUALLY I DIDN'T. CRAP SHOOT. WE JUST GOT LUCKY
BUT HEY EVERYTHING'S COOL NOW!
WELL, NOT JUST YET

Or man
when it rains it pours, don't it?
WELCOME TO THE FREAKSHOW!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING
A LITTLE RED DEVIL WITH A BLIND EYE TOWARDS IRONY.
HA HA HA THAT'S FUNNY!
ALL'S I SEE IS A LITTLE KID WITH A BIG MOUTH
YOU KNOW, ORDINARILY I WOULDN'T MIND A FEW PARTY CRASHERS
BUT NOT WHEN THEY THREATEN MY FAMILY AND DESTROY MY HOME
OUR HOME.
MY NAME IS JEREMY SPENCER AND THIS IS MY CARNIVAL
YOUR MOTHER MUST BE SO PROUD.

I SEE WE'VE HIT - OFF
THE ONLY THING I'M HITTING'S THE BAD GUYS, UNDER SCAND?
FAST, AND OCCASIONALLY LITTLE BOYS WITH BAD HABITS
SPEAKING OF LITTLE BOYS..
...THERE'S, UM...
..THERE'S A DEAD ONE IN THE CAROUSEL TENT
NO THERE SN'T.
WHAT?
UNLESS THE KID TURNED INVISIBLE WHEN HE STOPPED BREATHING.
..THERE AIN'T NO DEAD BODY IN THERE. JUST A 1925 CHARLES LOOF ANTIQUE CAROUSEL CART THAT'S PRETTY MUCH TRASHED NOW.
AND THAT'S IT.

OHGODOHGOD... WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN TO ME?!?
SOMEONE...
...SOMETHING...
...KILLED A LITTLE BOY... BILLY CAIN...
...THEY KILLED HIM.
HIS BODY WAS IN THERE ON ONE OF THOSE HORSES!! SOMEONE MOVED IT!
WELL... ...I'M SURE IT'S WITHIN THE "REALM OF POSSIBILITY".
THE SAME "REALM OF POSSIBILITY" THAT ALLOWS YOUNG GIRLS TO TURN INTO MONSTERS, RIGHT?
I CAN EXPLAIN THAT.
CAN YOU NOW?
WELL, UM... NO. ACTUALLY I CAN'T.
WE'RE WORKING ON THAT ONE, THOUGH. WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU ON IT.

THE UNEXPECTED AND THE OUTCAST HAVE, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, MADE THEIR HOME HERE. I'VE SEEN WORSE IN MY TRAVELS.
YEAH, I BET. YOU'RE SO OLD...
...IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE YOU'VE SEEN A LOT.
REGARDLESS, I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO WEAR OUT MY WELCOME. THINGS HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE "WEIRD ZONE" HERE, AND THIS TRAIN, QUITE LITERALLY, IS HEADING OUT.
WHAT ABOUT THAT LITTLE BOY, JEREMY?
WORD IS, THERE IS NO LITTLE BOY... BUT I'LL PACIFY YOU WITH LOOKING. WHAT THERE *IS*, HOWEVER, IS QUITE A BIT OF DAMAGE TO MY HOME CAUSED BY BOTH YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HERE.
QUITE A BIT OF *EXPENSIVE* DAMAGE, I MIGHT ADD.
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
SOMEWHERE ELSE. WE'RE HEADED WEST, AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN. WE LIKE TO KEEP MOVING...
...IT'S CALLED A TRAVELLING CARNIVAL FOR A REASON.
WHY?
YOU WANNA RUN AWAY AND JOIN THE CIRCUS? WORK OFF THIS DAMAGE YOU'VE CAUSED?

NOT PARTICULARLY, NO.
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...
AND I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL PARTICULARLY MISS ME.
OH, GOD...
HERE WE GO AGAIN.

THAT'S RIGHT, PIECE.
HERE WE GO AGAIN. ROLLING OFF INTO THE MORNING SUN.
ROLLING OFF TOWARDS UNCERTAINTY AND TERROR.
AND HOPEFULLY...
...ANSWERS.
ANSWERS ABOUT ME...
...ANSWERS ABOUT MY PAST...
...ANSWERS ABOUT WHY PENNANCE SUDDENLY DID OR DIDN'T DEVELOP PENMANSHIP...
...ANSWERS ABOUT WHY A CHILD MURDERER SEEMS TO KNOW WHY I HAVE THIS CURSE...
...ANSWERS THAT MIGHT, ULTIMATELY, SET ME FREE...
...ANSWERS I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE AFRAID TO FIND.
TO BE CONTINUED